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Saigon 3708
8-22-67

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 03708 220956Z

9
ACTION EA 14

INFO IO 21,CPM 03,SC 01,RSC 01,USIA 12,H 02,NSC 10,NSAE 00,L 03,
INR 07,P 04,CIA 04,DOD 01,SP 02,SS 35,SAH 03,AID 30,RSR 01,
EUR 25,/184 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dan Izubey DATE 10/6/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

P R 220956Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 153
INFO RECTTE WASHDC 5076
US MISSION GENEVA UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3708

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE ELECTION OBSERVERS

1. VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR AT ROME NGUYEN VAN HIEU PRESENTLY VISITING SAIGON PLANS RETURN ROME ABOUT AUGUST 25. SAID HE HAS FUNDS TO FINANCE VISIT OF ONE ITALIAN JOURNALIST TO SAIGON TO WITNESS VIETNAMESE ELECTIONS. ASKED OUR ADVICE ON WHOM TO INVITE.

2. WE REPLIED THAT OFFHAND CORRIERE DELLA SERA WOULD APPEAR GOOD CHOICE BUT SINCE IT MAY ALREADY BE SENDING CORRESPONDENT, WE WOULD PREFER CONSULT EMBASSY ROME.

(2) 3. HIEU WOULD PREFER MAKE DECISION AND EXTEND INVITATION FROM HERE. WE THEREFORE REQUEST SOONEST ANY VIEWS EMBASSY

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 3708 C O N F I D E N T I A L
ROME MAY WISH TO PASS ON TO HIEU. EMBASSY ROME MAY ALSO WISH DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH HIEU UPON HIS RETURN. HE SAID HE

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FELT [illegible] BE IN ROME JUST [illegible] ELECTIONS TO EXPLAIN THEM TO ITALIANS. BUNKER

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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,SP 02,
SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,L 03,H 02,P 04,INR 07,SAL 01,
AID 30,IO 21,SAH 03,RSR 01,SR 01,ORM 03,/147 W

O R 220845Z AUG 67 ZFF1
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5077
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3866
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2227
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 764

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3711 SECTION 1 OF 2

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: VOTER RIGISTRATION FOR 1967 NATIONAL ELECTIONS

REF: SAIGON 3517

1 VOTER REGISTRATION FIGURES BY PROVINCE AND CORPS RELEASED BY SPECIAL COMMISSARPIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION AFTER SECOND AND FINAL POSTING AUG 14 REPORTED REFTEL. OUR COMMENTS FOLLOW.

(1)

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 3711 1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
2. MOST NOTEWORTHY IS SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN NATIONWIDE TOTAL OF 5,853,251, UP 11 PERCENT OVER LAST YEAR'S CA ELECTION REGISTRATION FIGURE OF 5,288,512. THIS INCREASE IS LARGELY DUE TGGSUBSTANTIAL INCREASES RECORDED IN THE FOLLOWING PROVINCES AND CITIES:

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A. I CORPS, DA NANG, 116,053 UP 19 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR'S 47,954; QUANG NAM, 153,393 UP 21 PERCENT FROM 126,342; QUANG NGAI, 202,664 UP 21 PERCENT FROM 167,018; CORPS TOTAL 911,861 UP 11 PERCENT FROM 817,927.

B. II CORPS, BINH DINH, 302,260, UP A WHOOPING 52 PERCENT FROM 198,832; BINH THUAN, 106375, UP 25 PERCENT FROM 85,800; PHU YEN, 116,107 UP 36 PERCENT FROM 85,385; PLEIKU, 77,572 UP 39 PERCENT FROM 56,470; PHU BON, 27,052 UP 50 PERCENT FROM 18,837; CORPS TOTAL 1,132,268 UP 23PERCENT FROM 918,116.

C. III CORPS; BINH DUONG, 118,065, UP 34 PERCENT FROM 888,837; LONG AN 75,303 UP 23 PERCENT FROM 61,471; LOG KHANH, 61,155 UP 48 PERCENT FROM 49,643; PHUOC TUY, 50,768 UP 22 PERCENT FROM 41,075; AND TAY NINH, 130,395 UP 18 PERCENT FROM 110,650; CORPS TOTAL 1,348,838 UP 12 PERCENT FROM 1,203,042.

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D. IV CORPS, KIEN PHONG 111,110 UP 15 PERCENT FROM 96,557 AND PHONG DINH, 145,332 UP 22 PERCENT FROM 119,325; THE THREE PROVINCES OF VINH INH VINH-LONG AND SA DEC HAVE A COMBINED VOTER REGISTRATION OF 341,742. THE SAME AREA CONSTITUTED ONLY TWO PROVINCES LAST YEAR, VINH BINH AND VINH LONG, AND HAD A COMBINED VOTER REGISTRATION OF 290,959. THE THREE-PROVINCE AREA THUS SHOWS AN INCREASE OF 17 PERCENT. CORPS TOTAL: 1,694,944 UP 8 PERCENT FROM 1,573,014.

3. REASONS FOR INCREASES VARY FROM PROVINCE TO PROVINCE, WITH BETTER SECURITY AND SUBSTANTIAL REFUGEE FLOW INTO GVN CONTROLLED AREAS PROBABLY MOST IMPORTANT INFLUENCES. WE ARE ALSO AWARE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A WELL-ORGANIZED AND SYSTEMATIC EFFORT BYTHE GVN TO REGISTER AS MANY AS POSSIBLE. IN I CORPS AREAS OF DA NANG, QUANG NAM, AND QUANG NGAI REFUGEE FLOW IS PROBABLY PRIMARY REASON. IN COASTAL II CORPS WHERE MAJOR ADVANCES IN SECURITY HAVE BEEN REGISTERED, INCREASES IN BINH DINH, PHU YEN AND PERHAPS ALSO BINH THUAN ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THAT. IN HIGHLAND PROVINCES, PLEIKU AND PHU BON ARE UP LARGELY BECAUSE OF SOME MONTAGNARD RESETTLEMENT IN MORE SECURE AREAS (PHU

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BON AND PLEIKU) PLUS HEAVY FLOW OF VIETNAMESE FROM COASTAL

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PROVINCES WHO HAVE MOVED INTO HIGHLANDS LARGELY TO SEEK WORK NEAR US TROOP CONCENTRATION (PLEIKU). IN III CORPS, INCEEASE IN BINH DUONG IS DUE TO COMBINATION OF IMPROVED SECURITY PLUS REFUGEE FLOW AND RESETTLEMENT. THERE HAS BEEN SOME REA SETTLEMENT IN LONG KHANH AND LONG AN BUT SECURITY IN BOTH PROVINCES HAS SHOWN ONLY MARGINAL IMPROVEMENT, IF ANY. IN TWO PROVINCES IN IV CORPS REGISTERING 5 PERCENT GAINS, PHONG DINH AND KIEN PHONG, THERE HAS ALSO BEEN SOME REFUGEE ACCUMULATION IN GVN CONTROLLED AREAS BUT NOT MUCH IF ANY IMPROVEMENT IN OVER-ALL SECURITY. THE THEE-PROVINCE AREA OF VINH BINH, VINH LONG AND SA DEC SHOWS TE LARGEST INCREASE OF ANY PART OF IV CORPS AND MAY BE THE RESULT OF THE INTENSE EFFORT EXERTED IN THE FOUR POPULOUS DISTRICTS OF VINH LONG WHCIH BORDER THE MANG THIT-ICOLAI WATERWAY, PLUE A SUBSTANTIAL REFUGEE INFLUX INTO RD AREAS SUCH AS THIEU CAN DISTRICT OF VINH BINH.

4. REFTEL INCORREECTLY NOTED DECREASES ONLY IN SAIGON, QUANG DUC, AN GIAN, AND BAC LIEU. DECREASES ALSO NOTED IN THUA THIEN, LAM DONG, VUNG TAU, BA XUYEN AND BAC LIEU. AREAS SHOWING DECREASES: SAIGON, 765,340 DOWN 1.4 PERCENT FROM

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776,593; THUS THIEN, 183,160 DOWN 1.6 PERCENT FROM 186,633; QUANG DUC, 15,503 DOWN 8 PERCENT FROM 16,870; AN GIANG 224,274, DOWN 1 PERCENT FROM 226,111; BA XUYEN, 103,280 DOWN 5 PERCENT FROM 108,330; AC LIEU 68,760 DOWN 5 PERCENT FROM 72,439; AND IN III CORPS, VUNG TAU AT 35,78 IS DOWN 4 PERCENT FROM 37,162.

5. REASONS FOR DECREASES, WHICH IS MOST CASES ARE SMALL, ARE HARD TO IDENTIFY. PERHAPS DECREASED SECURITY IN THUA THIEN, BAC LIEU AND BA XUYGEN PLAYED A ROLE BUT WE ARE INCLINED TO ATTRIBUTE DRCREASES MORE TO IMPROVED ACCURACY OF REGISTRATION, WHICH THIS YEAR SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED WITH A GOOD DEAL MORE CARE AND PRECISION THAN LAST. THIS WILL ALSO ACCOUNT

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FOR MANY OFTHE INCREASES, AS IN PLEIKU WHERE THE DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF (#)

THAT MANY OF THE ETHNIC VIETNAMESE WHO HAVE MOVED INTO THE PROVINCE TO WORK UP NEAR US TROOP CONCENTRATIONS HAD NOT BEEN REGISTERED LAST YEAR BUT ARE NOW. THERE IS ALSO THE FACTOR OF NATURAL INCREASE, WHICH IN VIET-NAM CONTINUES DESPITE THE ATTRITION OF WAR.
BUNKER

(#)OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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